

Appln. Serial No. 09/366,849
Amendment Dated February 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action Mailed December 14, 2004

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 14, 2004, claims 11 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over U.S. Patent No. 6,011,786 (Dent); claim 24 was rejected under § 102 over U.S. Patent No. 5,093,928 (Kage); and claims 1, 7-9, 17-23, and 25-32 were rejected under § 103 over Dent in view of Kage.

Applicant acknowledges the indication that claims 2-6, 10, and 12-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

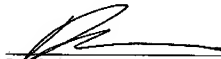
Claims 2-6, 10, and 12 have been amended from dependent form to independent form, with the scope of each claim remaining *unchanged*, to place the claims in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 11, and 17-32 have been cancelled, without prejudice,

In view of the foregoing, allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (NRT.0004US).

Respectfully submitted,

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